

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, MARR, NATO

SUBJ: CEP: PBOS SALVAGE TUG S G MTG FEB 18

REF: (A) MARAD 032101Z; (B) AC/271-STCSG-N/4

1. WE WERE UNABLE TO DETERMINE WHETHER NATIONS WOULD AGREE TO PROVIDE TUGS AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE AT LOCATIONS DESIGNATED BY SACLANT AS RECOMMENDED REFTEL, ITEM NO. 4. REPRESENTATIVES WERE NOT AUTHORIZED TO MAKE THESE COMMITMENTS BUT THE GROUP DECIDED AGAINST PROCEEDING ON THIS BASIS IN ANY CASE AS EXPLAINED IN PARA 3.

2. THE MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT THE LOW NUMBER OF LOCATIONS AT WHICH SALVAGE TUGS WOULD BE REQUIRED AS CONTAINED IN SACLANT'S RESPONSE IN REF B. THE SACLANT REPRESENTATIVE EXPLAINED THAT CONTRARY TO THE ANSWER IN ITEM 1(D) OF REF (B), THE NUMBER OF TUGS REQUIRED MAY NOT BE ONLY NINE. SACLANT'S PRELIMINARY PLANNING REQUIREMENT IS FOR ONE TUG AT EACH OF NINE LOCATIONS. SHOULD THAT TUG BE OFF STATION FOR LONG TOWS OR FOR REPAIRS, THEN A REPLACEMENT TUG WOULD BE REQUIRED. FURTHER, SHOULD PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS BE REVISED, THERE MAY BE A NEED FOR MORE THAN ONE TUG AT EACH OF NINE LOCATIONS. HE EXPLAINED THAT THESE LOCATIONS WOULD BE IN SUPPORT OF OCEAN CONVOYS, NOT INSHORE AND COASTAL CONVOYS.

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3. THE NETHERLANDS DELEGATION TOOK SERIOUS EXCEPTION TO THE SACLANT REPLY AND THEN CIRCULATED THEIR OWN PAPER WHICH RESTATED ALL OF THE NETHERLANDS PAST POSITIONS SUPPORTING THE POOLING OF ALL SALVAGE TUGS. THE GROUP DECIDED NOT TO STRUCTURE THE REMAINDER OF THE MEETING ON THE DUTCH PROPOSALS. WE CAME TO AN AGREEMENT TO MAKE A WRITTEN INTERIM REPORT TO PBOS WHICH WOULD IGNORE ALL PREVIOUS REPORTS, PARTICULARLY AC/271-D/74 (WHICH FAVORED THE NETHERLANDS PROPOSAL) AND AC/271-STCSG-WP/3 (WHICH SUPPORTED THE US POSITION). WE AGREED TO MAKE A NEW STEP BY STEP APPROACH; FIRST, TO DETERMINE THE OVERALL REQUIREMENTS AND NATIONAL PLANS TO MEET THOSE REQUIREMENTS; AND THEN TO ASSESS THE NEED FOR ANY DSA POOLING ROLE. THE STCSG REPORT TO PBOS WILL ASK A NUMBER OF RELEVANT QUESTIONS.

4. COMMENT: GENERALLY, MOST DELEGATIONS HAVE NO STRONG VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT. IT IS SEEN AS A UNIQUE PROBLEM FOR THE NETHERLANDS WHICH MAY NOT REQUIRE A PBOS SOLUTION. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS CLEAR FROM THE DISCUSSIONS THAT THERE IS A GAP IN THE MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PLANNING FOR ACQUIRING AND POSITIONING SALVAGE TUGS. THE ANSWERS SOUGHT IN PARA 3 MAY LEAD TO IMPROVED PLANNING AND SOLVE THE DUTCH SALVAGE TUG PROBLEM AT THE SAME TIME. END COMMENT.

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